



28. Three Bambu Trumpets from Northern Territory, South Australia.

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ORIGINAL ARTICLES.

Australia.

With Plate C, 1-2.

Balfour.

A Swan-neck Boomerang of unusual form. Communicated by Henry Balfour, M.A., Curator of the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford.

27

I am anxious to draw attention to the implement shown in Plate C, fig. 1, in order that I may ascertain whether any similar boomerang exists in other museums or collections. The specimen is in the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford, having formerly been in Mr. Norman Hardy's collection. Instead of being cut out of a single piece of wood specially selected for the purpose, as is the case with the swan-necked boomerang as usually seen (one of which is figured for comparison, Plate C, fig. 2), this example has been apparently made from an ordinary boomerang having but slight curvature, and the spur at the end is formed by fixing with gum a flat piece of wood to the boomerang head. The spur is painted in red and white patterns, and the boomerang is coated with red ochre. The spur is protected with a sheath of *melaleuca* bark. The hook-like spur is $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. This specimen was procured from natives of MacArthur River, Gulf of Carpentaria, N.T., S. Australia. I should be curious to ascertain whether others of similar construction have been recorded, and also whether this example is to be regarded as intended for ceremonial use; the painting seems to suggest this. The specimen of ordinary type figured with it is from the tableland between the Roper and MacArthur Rivers. H. B.

Australia.

With Plate C, 3-5.

Balfour.

Three Bambu Trumpets from Northern Territory, South Australia. Communicated by Henry Balfour, M.A., Curator of the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford.

28

I have recently been able to secure for the Pitt Rivers Museum at Oxford three examples of the trumpets made by natives of Northern Territory, South Australia, in the region between Ports Essington and Darwin (Plate C, 3-5). Though characteristic of this particular region, comparatively few of these instruments have found their way into museums. They are of interest as being of very limited range, and as being wind instruments of music, a class which is very poorly represented among native Australians. Wooden tubes, *ilpirra*, hollowed out by white ants, were obtained by the members of the Horn Expedition in Central Australia. These were used for singing through, and not for blowing as trumpets (Spencer and Gillen, p. 607). W. E. Roth mentions emu calls consisting of hollow logs, $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 feet long, which are blown into to produce a sound, as being used throughout North-West Central Queensland (Ethnological Studies, p. 97). Unless one includes the "bull-roarers" as wind instruments, as one should do, I do not recall any other wind musical instruments in Australia excepting the bambu trumpets of the Northern Territory. Coppinger ("Voyage of the 'Alert,' 1883, p. 204) saw in a camp of the Larikia tribe, Port Darwin, "pieces of hollow reed about 4 feet long, which they blew like cow-horns." R. Etheridge describes and figures ("Macleay Memorial Volume," 1893, Linn. Soc. N.S.W.) three bambu trumpets obtained by Mr. H. Stockdale from the Alligator tribe, Port Essington, varying from 3 feet to 3 feet 3 inches in length, and from quite straight to strongly curved. All are engraved on the surface. J. E. Partington figures ("Album of the Pacific," I. ser., 353, fig. i.) a straight example from Port Essington, called *ebero*, which is in the British Museum; also (III. ser., pl. 136, figs. 2 and 3) a specimen (37 inches) from the Gulf of Carpentaria, *oolomba*, "blown like a bullock horn," and one from Western Queensland (8 feet 6 inches), of which it is said, "the performer sings into one end." Both these instruments are in the Adelaide Museum. Of the specimens which are figured here

[33]

(Plate C), number 1 is of small size ($3\frac{1}{4}$ inches), very slightly curved, reddened all over, and scratched and dotted over the surface. Number 2 is of large size (3 feet $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches across the curve), is strongly curved, and tapers somewhat from end to end. The surface is scraped, reddened, and finely engraved in places, figures of the dugong and turtle being discernible; black gum has been smeared on the larger end. The native name is given as *mam-ma-lie*. Both these were procured by Mr. J. V. Parkes, Inspector of Mines, in 1891, near Port Essington, and were in the collection of Mr. Norman Hardy recently presented to the Pitt Rivers Museum by Mr. R. F. Wilkins.

The third specimen (No. 3) is nearly straight, 4 feet $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, tapering slightly. The silicious cortex is scraped away in bands at the nodes, the intervening spaces being roughly engraved in zig-zags. The lower end has been coated with "blackboy" gum. I purchased this specimen from an English dealer, and it probably comes from the Port Essington district.

In all the specimens the ends are cut off square, and the nodes have been broken through, so that the instruments are merely plain tube-trumpets. H. B.

India : Madras.

Fawcett.

Notes on the Dômb's of Jeypur, Vizagapatam District, Madras Presidency. 29
Communicated by F. Fawcett, Local Correspondent of the Anthropological Institute.

The Dômb's are an outcast jungle people, who inhabit the forests on the high lands fifty to eighty or one hundred miles from the east coast of India, about Vizagapatam. Being outcast, they are never allowed to live within a village, but have their own little hamlet adjoining a village proper, inhabited by people of various superior castes.

It is fairly safe to say that the Dômb's are akin to the Pânô's of the adjoining Khond country, a pariah folk who live amongst the Khonds, and used to supply the human victims for the Mériah sacrifices. Indeed the Khonds, who hold them in contemptuous inferiority, call them Dombô's as a sort of alternative title to Pânô's. The Paîdis of the adjoining Savara or Saora country are also, doubtless, kinsmen of the Dômb's.

In most respects their condition is a very poor one. Though they live in the best part of the Presidency for game, they know absolutely nothing of hunting, and cannot even handle a bow and arrow. They have, however, one respectable quality, industry, and are the weavers, traders, and money-lenders of the hills, being very useful as middlemen between the Khonds, Savras, Gadaben, and other hill-people, on the one hand, and the traders of the plains on the other. I am informed, on good authority, that there are some Dômb's who rise higher than this, but cannot say whether these are, or are not, crosses with superior races. Most likely they are; for most of the Dômb's are arrant thieves.

It was this propensity for thieving, in fact, which had landed some hundreds of them in the jail at Vizagapatam when I visited that place lately, and gave me the opportunity of recording their measurements, and of making some notes of their customs; and these measurements and notes I now submit for what they may be worth, as bearing on the Dravidian problem of Southern and Central India.

Tribal Divisions.—With one exception, all the individuals in the tabular list given below, are Paîdi Dômb's. The one exception is No. 22 in my notes, who is an Augnia Dômb. Between Augnia and Paîdi Dômb's there is no intermarriage, and the Augnia are reckoned inferior "because they eat frogs." Both, on the other hand, eat beef, which, it is hardly necessary to say, is eaten in Southern India by none but those on the lowest step of the social ladder. No doubt there are other tribes of Dômb's also besides